

**REMARKS**

This application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the Office Action dated December 28, 2007. Reconsideration of that action is requested in view of the following.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings. The objection is based upon a drawing which has been labeled as "Figure 2" which has been objected to as "incorrectly labeled". The labeling of that figure, however, is correct. In that regard, Figure 1 appears on pages 20-21 of the Specification. As a matter of convenience attached hereto are copies of pages 20-21 with Figure 1 and of Figure 2. If the Examiner still believes that there is some incorrect labeling of any of the drawings it is respectfully requested that the Examiner point out where the error is. Applicants will then make whatever corrections are necessary.

The objection to the numbering of claims is noted. Specifically, there had been two claims numbered as Claim 21. Both of those claims, however, have now been canceled.

Parent Claim 12 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 20-22 have been canceled. In view of the cancellation to Claims 20-22 the rejection of Claims 20-21 over the prior art is now moot.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of parent Claim 12 and its dependent claims as unpatentable over Kaczun, et al. in view of McCaughey, et al. and in view of other prior art with regard to certain of the dependent claims.

Parent Claim 12 has now been amended to define the protective element with greater particularity. In addition, step (b) has been amended to point out that the removal of the protective element is by peeling it off the cross-linked, relief-forming layer. Support for these amendments is found at page 7, lines 9-19 of the specification.

Parent Claim 12 now clearly distinguishes over the hypothetical combination of prior art. According to Kaczun et al., the protective element is removed firstly, and photochemical crosslinking by irradiating with UVA light is done subsequently. See column 5, paragraph

[0071] of Kaczun. Consequently, exposure to actinic light does not occur through the protective element – contrary to step (a) of parent Claim 12. According to McCaughey, the photopolymer material may be coated with a release layer, which release layer may be removed either in step 20, i.e., after curing of the polymer plate, or in step 40, i.e. after laser engraving of the cured photopolymeric plate. The release layer of McCaughey is removed by immersing the plate in a solvent solution for a predetermine time period, both in step 20 and step 40. In step 40, the release layer is removed together with a residue produced by the laser ablation step. McCaughey thus does not teach or suggest irradiating the photopolymeric layer through a peelable protective film containing the polymeric materials as defined in amended Claim 12 (PET etc.), and simply peeling off the protective film after curing of the photopolymer layer. Therefore, even a combination of Kaczun and McCaughey does not teach all of the elements of amended Claim 12. The release layer of McCaughey is a layer different from the protective film of the invention, and it is removed in a different manner. Therefore, the process according to amended Claim 12 is not rendered obvious by a combination of Kaczun and McCaughey.

In view of the above remarks and amendments this application should be passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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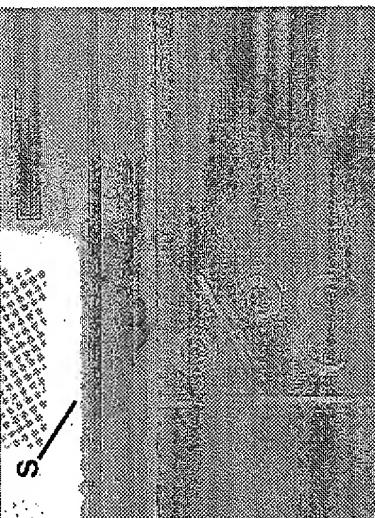
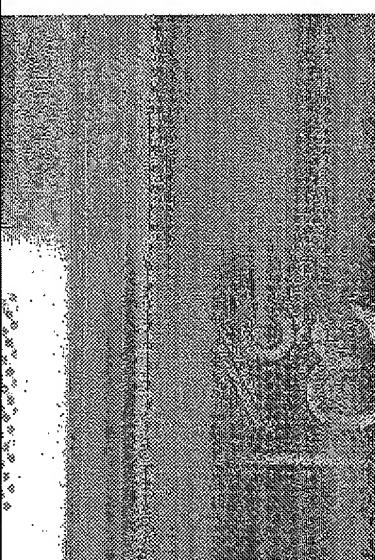
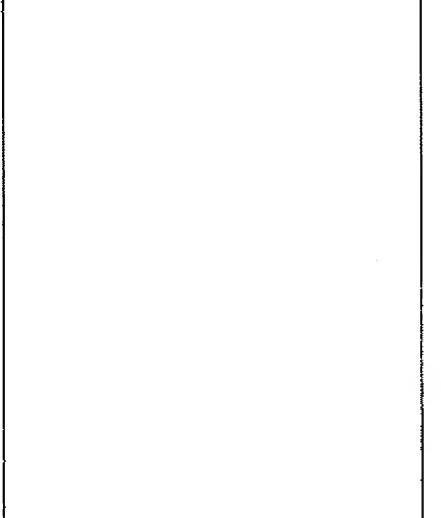
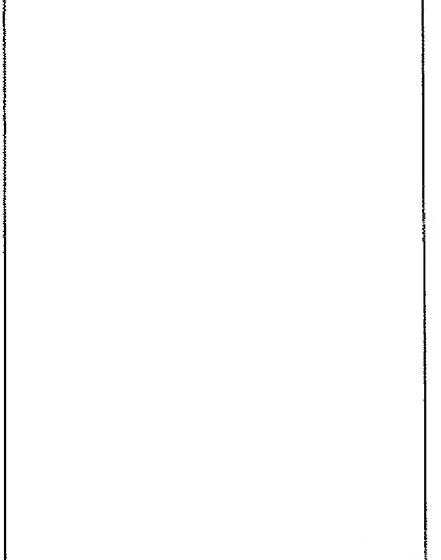
	Example 1		Example 2		Comparative example 1		Comparative example 2
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Figure 1: Magnified pictures of a section of the printing relief in the examples and comparative examples. The length of script 3% is 4 mm. "S": Melt edges

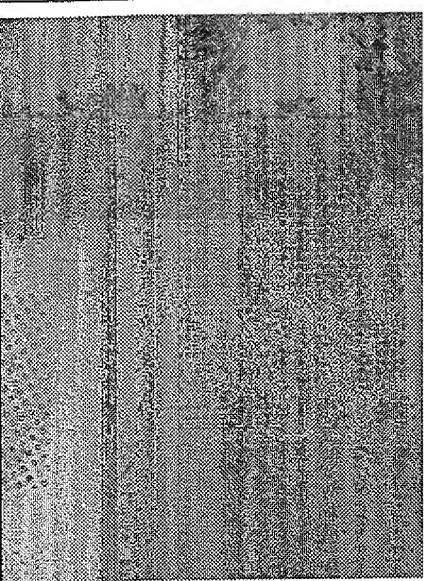
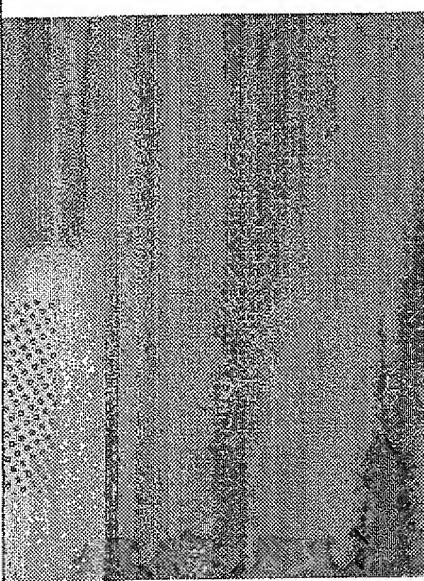
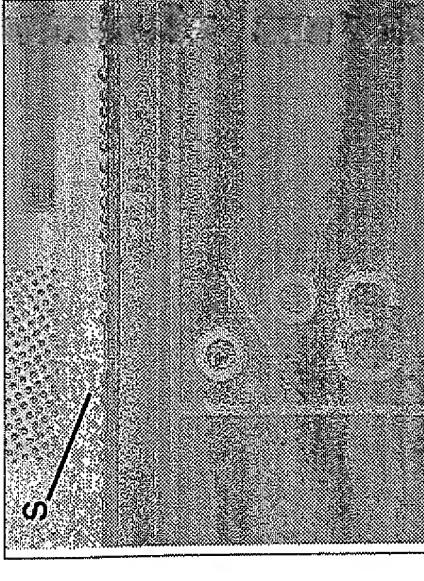
Comparative example 3	Comparative example 4	Comparative example 5
		

Figure 1 (continued)

**Figure 2**

